

REMARKS

This amendment responds to the Office Action dated June 23, 2009 in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant respectfully brings the Examiner's attention to page 18, lines 1-5, page 23, lines 8-21 and Figure 10, steps S1 and S2. Applicant respectfully submits that measuring a quality of communication of radio signals is clearly defined in the Specification. As stated on page 23, the measure of the quality of communication based on the signal received is, for example, the measure of the radio signal strength or the error rate measured at intervals in time. Applicants respectfully submit that Applicant has sufficiently defined the claims to a person reasonably skilled in the art. Attached to this Amendment is an excerpt from the online Webster dictionary defining measurement, in entry number 5, as "to estimate or appraise by a criterion". Since Applicant's claim is not indefinite and the Specification clearly defines the terms, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim 1 claims an autonomous robot apparatus, claim 4 claims an information processing method for an autonomous robot apparatus and claim 5 claims a computer readable medium having a program for an autonomous robot apparatus. The robot apparatus communicates with a communication apparatus by radio and independently determines an action in accordance with an instruction from a user or a surrounding environment. The apparatus, method and program include measuring a quality of communication of radio signals received from the communication apparatus. The action, on the basis of the communication quality measured by the measuring

means, is then determined. A process of allowing the robot apparatus to physically communicate loss of radio communication with the communication apparatus to a user is performed.

By measuring a quality of communication of radio signals, determining an action and then allowing the robot apparatus to physically communicate loss of radio communication with the communication apparatus to the user, as claimed in claims 1, 4 and 5, the claimed invention provides a robot apparatus, method and program which utilizes functions peculiar to the robot so that a user can be easily notified of a state of communication. The prior art does not show, teach or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1, 4 and 5.

Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over *Glenn, et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,763,282) in view of GASIL (General Aviation Safety Information Leaflet, September 2002).

Glenn, et al. appears to disclose in Figure 13 a flow chart illustrating the method for controlling the actions of a robot 902. At step 1306, the control station 904 and monitoring personnel can then use information conveyed in the impulse radio signals 908 to control the actions of the robot 902. The control station 904 can use the conveyed information to control the actions of the robot 902 in order to monitor and control the environment within a building 1102. The information obtained by the robot 102 and conveyed in impulse radio signals 908 to the control station 904 can include a wide variety of information including environmental related information, safety related information, inventory related information and surveillance related information (column 24, lines 13-24).

Thus, *Glenn, et al.* merely discloses conveying information to a control station 904 and monitoring personnel. Nothing in *Glenn, et al.* shows, teaches or suggests communicating loss

of radio communication with a communication apparatus as claimed in claims 1 and 4-5. Rather, *Glenn, et al.* only discloses conveying information (*i.e.* no loss of communication is conveyed).

Furthermore, since *Glenn, et al.* merely discloses conveying information to a control station and monitoring personnel, nothing in *Glenn, et al.* shows, teaches or suggests a robot apparatus physically communicating loss of radio communication to a user as claimed in claims 1 and 4-5. Rather, *Glenn, et al.* only discloses conveying information to the control station and monitoring personnel.

GASIL appears to disclose on page 16 reports about a loss of communication between Air Traffic Control (ATC) and aircraft (page 16, lines 1-2). Pilots, avionics engineers, FISOs and air to ground radio operators were asked to report an unexplained loss of communication to the Safety Investigation and Data Department of the CAA (by MOR form or by letter) as an occurrence in order to aid the ongoing investigations by providing much needed extra data. As no cause or combination of causes has yet been confirmed as the reason for such a loss of communication, all information relating to the state of the aircraft at the time of such a loss of communication is very relevant (third paragraph, lines 7-9, page 16).

Thus, GASIL merely discloses human operators (pilots, engineers, etc.) of aircraft reporting loss of communication by MOR form or by letter to a Safety Investigation and Data Department. Nothing in GASIL shows, teaches or suggests (a) a robot apparatus communication loss of radio communication with a communication apparatus or (b) physically communicating the loss of radio communication to a user as claimed in claims 1 and 4-5. Rather, GASIL only discloses a human operator writing a report to a safety department (*i.e.* the Safety Department is not a user as defined in claims 1 and 4-5).

A combination of *Glenn, et al.* and GASIL would not be possible since *Glenn, et al.* is directed to monitoring information conveyed from a robot while GASIL is directed to loss of communication between air traffic control and an aircraft and reporting loss of communication to a safety department. Even assuming arguendo that the references could be combined, the combination would merely suggest that monitoring personnel of *Glenn, et al.* fill out a letter or form and send it to the Safety Department when loss of communication occurs. Thus, nothing in the combination of the references shows, teaches or suggests a robot apparatus physically communicating loss of radio communication with a communication apparatus to a user as claimed in claims 1 and 4-5. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 2-3 and 6-13 recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-3 and 6-13 would not have been obvious over *Glenn, et al.* and GASIL within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103 at least for the reasons as set forth above. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 2-3 and 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

New claims 14-17 have been added and recite additional features. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for a reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

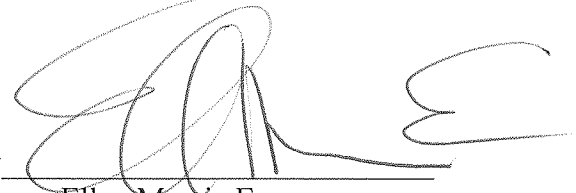
In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: September 8, 2009

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ellen Marcie Emas', written over a horizontal line.

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